

**EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20502**

June 3, 2019

Jamie Corey
Senior Researcher, Documented
PO Box 258084
Madison, WI 53725

Re: OSTP-FOIA-19-036

Dear Ms. Corey:

This letter is an interim response to a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request received by the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) on March 26, 2019.¹ Specifically, the request sought:

- “All agency records regarding the Presidential Committee on Climate Security (PCCS), including but not limited to, agency records regarding the Deputies Committee Meeting on the Presidential Committee on Climate Security which took place on February 22, 2018 including but not limited to meeting minutes, correspondence and memos prepared in preparation for this meeting, and contemporaneous notes.”
- “All communications between, OSTP Director, Kelvin Droegemeier and Will Happer, Patrick Moore, or any member or representative of the CO2 Coalition.”

Following receipt of the request, OSTP conducted a search of its files and located several records responsive to the request. For the first interim release in a rolling production of documents, OSTP identified five pages that it is releasing in part, with redactions taken pursuant to Exemption Six of the FOIA.² Attached please find a copy of the responsive records. Below is an explanation of the exemptions claimed and their application to the responsive records subject to this request.

Exemption Six

Exemption Six of the FOIA protects the privacy interests of individuals.³ It permits an agency to protect information within “personal and medical files and similar files” if disclosure “would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.”⁴ To determine whether information may be withheld under Exemption Six, an agency must undertake a three-step analysis. First, the agency must determine whether a protectable privacy interest would be compromised by the disclosure of the record.⁵ If no privacy interest is identified, the information may not be withheld pursuant to the exemption.⁶ Second, the agency must determine whether the release of the document would further the public interest by shedding

¹ 5 U.S.C. § 552

² 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6).

³ *Id.*

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ See *Multi AG Media LLC v. Dep’t of Agric.*, 515 F.3d 1224, 1229 (D.C. Cir. 2008).

⁶ *Id.*

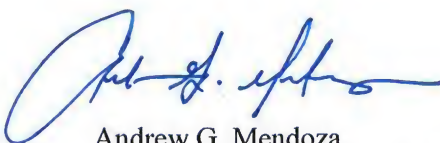
light on the operations and activities of the government.⁷ In cases where no public interest exists “even a modest privacy interest,” will outweigh it every time.⁸ Finally, the agency must balance the identified privacy interests against the public interest in disclosure.⁹ In this case, direct phone lines and e-mail addresses are being withheld. Individuals, including OSTP employees, have a protectable privacy interest in maintaining the confidentiality of their direct lines and email addresses as their release would potentially subject them to harassing contact from the public. Additionally, the release of this information does not shed light on the operations of the Federal government. Accordingly, the privacy interests inherent in the withheld information outweighs the public interest in release and the information may be withheld pursuant to Exemption Six.¹⁰

As mentioned above, this is an interim response. As additional documents complete the review process they will be released under separate cover. Please also note that requestors have the right to seek dispute resolution services from OSTP’s FOIA Public Liaison or the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS). To employ these services, please contact Andrew Mendoza via telephone at (202) 456-4444 or by way of e-mail at OSTPFOIA@ostp.eop.gov. To contact OGIS, please do so in any of the following ways:

Office of Government Information Services
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphia Road-OGIS
College Park, MD 20740-6001
E-mail: ogis@nara.gov
Telephone: (202) 741-5770
Fax: (202) 741-5769
Toll-free: 1 (877) 684-6448

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me via telephone or by way of e-mail.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Andrew G. Mendoza".

Andrew G. Mendoza
Legal Counsel and Policy Advisor

⁷ See *id.*

⁸ *Nat'l Ass'n of Retired Fed. Employees v. Horner*, 879 F.2d 873, 879 (D.C. Cir. 1989).

⁹ *Dep't of Defense v. Fed. Labor Relations Auth.*, 510 U.S. 487, 497 (1994).

¹⁰ *Id.*

Re: [EXTERNAL] Washington Post request, regarding a new climate and national security initiative the NSC has proposed

From: "Eilperin, Juliet" <(b) (6)>

To: "Gillfillan, Ross T. EOP/OSTP" <(b) (6)>

Date: Tue, 19 Feb 2019 10:17:01 -0500

Hey k. Who's the best press contact there? Thanks.

On Feb 19, 2019, at 10:10 AM, Gillfillan, Ross T. EOP/OSTP <(b) (6)> wrote:

[EXTERNAL EMAIL]

Thanks Juliet - I'd have to direct you to NSC's press office if they're running point on a panel like this. Best, Ross

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 19, 2019, at 9:50 AM, Eilperin, Juliet <(b) (6)> wrote:

Dear Ross,

Just flagging this for you. I'm at a conference today, so email is best, in terms of getting in touch. But I will have breaks, including from 10-10:30, and from 12-1:30 pm, in case you want to call.

Best,
Juliet

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Eilperin, Juliet" <(b) (6)>
Date: February 18, 2019 at 2:27:58 PM EST
To: "press@ostp.eop.gov" <press@ostp.eop.gov>
Subject: Washington Post request, regarding a new climate and national security initiative the NSC has proposed

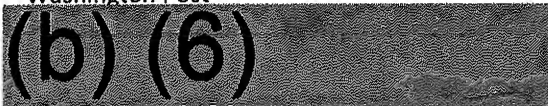
To whom it may concern,

I'm trying to reach someone at OSTP to inquire about a federal advisory committee that the National Security Council is considering launching, the Presidential Committee on Climate Security. Since this proposed panel would examine the current state of climate science and to what extent climate change represents a threat to national security, I was hoping to get OSTP's perspective on this initiative.

Since today is a federal holiday, I was hoping to talk to someone by midday tomorrow. I'm best reached on my cell (b) (6) or via this email.

Thanks,
Juliet

Juliet Eilperin
Senior National Affairs Correspondent
Washington Post



@eilperin

FW: Washington Post request, regarding a new climate and national security initiative the NSC has proposed

From: OSTP Press Office <(b) (6)>

To: "Hernandez, Elena R. EOP/OSTP" (b) (6)

Date: Tue, 19 Feb 2019 12:37:04 -0500

From: Eilperin, Juliet <(b) (6)>

Sent: Monday, February 18, 2019 2:28 PM

To: OSTP Press Office <MBX.OSTP.Press@OSTP.eop.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Washington Post request, regarding a new climate and national security initiative the NSC has proposed

To whom it may concern,

I'm trying to reach someone at OSTP to inquire about a federal advisory committee that the National Security Council is considering launching, the Presidential Committee on Climate Security. Since this proposed panel would examine the current state of climate science and to what extent climate change represents a threat to national security, I was hoping to get OSTP's perspective on this initiative.

Since today is a federal holiday, I was hoping to talk to someone by midday tomorrow. I'm best reached on my cell, 202-302-3663, or via this email.

Thanks,
Juliet

Juliet Eilperin
Senior National Affairs Correspondent
Washington Post

(b) (6)

@eilperin

Re: [EXTERNAL] schedule a meeting?

From: Steven E Koonin (b) (6)

To: "Droegemeier, Kelvin K. EOP/OSTP" (b) (6)

Date: Sun, 24 Feb 2019 11:36:45 -0500

Great! Hope we'll get a chance to talk.

Steven E. Koonin
University Professor
New York University

On Feb 24, 2019, at 11:19, Droegemeier, Kelvin K. EOP/OSTP (b) (6) wrote:

Dear Steve,

Thanks very much for writing! I believe we did meet some time ago, when you were in DoE and I was on the National Science Board. But as I recall, it was brief - perhaps at a reception.

I'm copying a couple of folks in OSTP to coordinate a date and time.

Looking forward to chatting!

Sincerely,

Kelvin

On Feb 24, 2019, at 10:47 AM, Steven E Koonin (b) (6) wrote:

Dr. Droegemeier:

I don't believe we've ever met, but we have moved in the same circles (brief bio below the signature block; more at <https://www.energy.gov/seab/contributors/steven-e-koonin>).

I will be in DC the week of March 4 and would like to see if you're amenable/available for a discussion. Among the many topics we could cover are:

- STPI's support for OSTP (I've some interest as a Trustee of IDA)
 - Focus areas for OSTP (I participated in the STPI brainstorming sessions last fall)
 - The proposed Presidential Committee on Climate Security
 - Health of the DOE lab programs in basic and applied sciences and national security (I am, or have recently been, involved in oversight of LLNL, LANL, and SNL)
 - Reconciling open science with counter-intelligence considerations
 - Prior/future JASON or Academies' study topics
-

Windows for me are the late morning/early afternoon of Tuesday, March 5 or the afternoon of Thursday, March 7. Do let me know if a meeting might be possible.

Steve Koonin
University Professor
New York University

Bio: Steven E. Koonin, a University Professor at New York University, was the founding director of NYU's Center for Urban Science and Progress from 2012-2018. Before joining NYU, Dr. Koonin served as the second Under Secretary for Science at the U.S. Department of Energy from May 2009 through November 2011. In that capacity, he oversaw technical activities across the Department's science, energy, and security activities and led the Department's first Quadrennial Technology Review for energy. Before joining the government, Dr. Koonin spent five years as Chief Scientist for BP plc, where he focused on alternative and renewable energy technologies. Dr. Koonin was a professor of theoretical physics at California Institute of Technology (Caltech) from 1975-2006 and was the Institute's Provost for almost a decade. He is a member of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences (chairing the advisory committee for the NRC's Division of Engineering and Physical Sciences) and the JASON advisory group. Dr. Koonin holds a B.S. in Physics from Caltech and a Ph.D. in Theoretical Physics from MIT (1975) and is a trustee of the Institute for Defense Analyses.